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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 676
By Buck

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Edgar
Evins State Park.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause and celebrate those noteworthy milestones in this Volunteer State's most esteemed programs; and

WHEREAS, the Edgar Evins State Park in DeKalb County is embarking on its 25th year; the anniversary will be celebrated on August 5, 2000 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Center Hill Dam Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration, in conjunction with the 8th Annual Log Jam and Open House, will be a time of reflecting on the past, looking to the future, and enjoying the present with festivities and fun for all; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Evins State Park encompasses approximately 6,000 acres on the shores of Center Hill Reservoir in the rolling hills of Middle Tennessee. It provides excellent recreational opportunities and accommodations on one of the most beautiful reservoirs in Tennessee; and

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WHEREAS, the park was named in memory of James Edgar Evins, an outstanding leader and former state senator who was instrumental in the development of Center Hill Dam and Reservoir. Mr. Evins was the father of former U.S. Senator, Joe L. Evins; and

WHEREAS, the park is easily accessible, being located in DeKalb County, 20 miles north of Smithville, 20 miles west of Cookeville and 60 miles east of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, rich in heritage and history, the area now known as Edgar Evins State Park was once home and hunting ground to Native Americans as far back as 10,000 to 12,000 years ago; centuries later, several generations of families lived, worked, and played in the same area and homesites with limestone foundations and stone doorsteps can still be found throughout the park; and

WHEREAS, life in the community, which began around 1900, required determination and many physical demands. With a few exceptions, nearly all of the families listed in the early 20th century census records were farmers; life was tough and the inclined grades in the park make it hard to believe that the slopes were once capable of producing corn, tobacco, livestock, and other crops complimentary to the markets of the day; and

WHEREAS, the impoundment of the Center Hill Reservoir occurred in the late 1940s; the park was developed in the early 1970s for the public's use and enjoyment of Center Hill, one of the "Great Lakes of the South"; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Evins State Park officially opened on August 5, 1975; the park has been a sanctuary for wildlife, source of beautiful hiking trails, inviting campgrounds, and home of dazzling wildflowers and vegetation; and

WHEREAS, also a Wildlife Management Area, jointly managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, 5,000 acres of the park are open to small- and large-game hunting during the state's seasons; and

WHEREAS, countless individuals, including park rangers, state officials, volunteers, sportsmen, and outdoorsmen, have labored to sustain the natural beauty and integrity of Tennessee at the Edgar Evins State Park; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the elected officials of this estimable state, one rich in its great diversity of natural and cultural resources, recognize and commend the dedicated servants who serve as stewards of our natural environment; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby join in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Edgar Evins State Park, commend the efforts of the park's many supporters who are committed to preserving the bountiful assets that make Tennessee special, and wish them well in all of their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.